



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834
Sacramento, California 95825

www.ca.blm.gov



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To: Field Managers, Alturas, Bakersfield, Bishop, Eagle Lake, Folsom, Redding, and Surprise

From: State Director

Subject: Aspen Delineation Project, Sierra Nevada and Warner Mountains

Region 5 of the U.S. Forest Service recently advised us of an interagency effort to assess the extent, condition, history of treatment, and treatment options for quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the Sierra Nevada and Warner Mountains. The Principal Investigator for the "Aspen Delineation Project" is David Burton, a "retired" volunteer who has been active in the study of California aspen populations for the past three years. (See attached biographic sketch.) In addition to the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Game and the Sierra Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation are also collaborating on this project. The principal investigator has offered to extend the study across agency jurisdictional boundaries to include BLM Field Offices and BLM landscapes within the Sierra Nevada and Warner Mountains.

The Aspen Delineation Project consists of three phases. Phase I involves development and distribution of a brief questionnaire to participating agency field offices or management units. (See Attachment 2 for draft USFS questionnaire.) The questionnaire is intended to establish where inventorying of aspen stands has occurred, how districts have developed methods of prioritizing stand treatment needs, whether any treatment of stands has been implemented, and if those treated stands have been monitored after treatment. Additionally, this questionnaire will assist in identifying agency personnel who are knowledgeable on aspen issues and the kinds of information and training that agency staff need in order to facilitate aspen management. Phase II involves field reviews to document and organize baseline information on aspen inventory, monitoring, and management strategies in California, and identify associated training needs. Phase III consists of analyzing and summarizing the information gathered and presenting the results to participating agencies in the form a written report. (See Attachment 3 for a draft outline of the Phase III report.)

Mr. Burton may soon be contacting your office as he begins Phase I of the project. You are encouraged to respond to the questionnaire he submits to your office and to cooperate in the field office reviews he conducts to document and organize baseline information on aspen inventory, monitoring, and management strategies. BLM's participation in the Aspen Delineation Project will improve our access to key information about this declining species and may identify ways in which inventory, monitoring, and treatment protocols can be coordinated and implemented across agency administrative boundaries. We have submitted a funding proposal under the Applications of Science initiative in an effort to provide the Principal Investigator with some financial assistance to recover out-of-pocket costs, although he has stated that such assistance is not necessary for BLM to participation in the project.

Questions regarding the attached materials may be directed to Ed Lorentzen or John Willoughby in the California State Office at (916) 978-4630 or to David Burton at (916) 663-2575.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachments

- 1 - Biographic Sketch for David Burton, Principal Investigator, Aspen Delineation Project (1 p.)
- 2 - Aspen Delineation Project Questionnaire (3 pp.)
- 3 - Draft Outline, Aspen in California Report (1 p.)

Distribution

Group Manager, WO-230, MS 204 LS (w/o attachments)
Forester, Washington Office West, ID-960 (Attn: Rick Tholen) (w/o attachments)
Center Director, Western Ecological Research Center, USGS (Attn: Jeff Lovich) (w/o attachments)
Regional Forester, Region 5, USFS (Attn: Diana Craig) (w/o attachments)